GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:650
ANSWERED ON:23.02.2006
PHASING OUT OF AC COACHES
Yadav Shri Ram Kripal

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any plan to phase out its fleet of more man 10000 Air conditioned coaches keeping in view the Montreal Protocol on environment of which India is signatory;

(b) if so, whether the Railways are seeking United Nation Development Fund (UNDP) for assistance on phasing out its AC coaches;

(c) if so, the time schedule fixed for the purpose;

(d) the details of the alternative sources explored to arrange large number of AC coaches for the Railways;

(e) the fund required for procurement of AC coaches;

(f) whether Railway Coach Factories are in a position to produce such a large number of AC coaches in a very short time; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R.VELU)

(a): Yes, Sir. Railways have already planned to phase out/ modify 780 Air conditioned (AC) coaches with R-12 refrigerant manufactured before 1994. After 1994 Railways have already switched over to manufacturing AC coaches with environment friendly refrigerant (R-22).

(b): No, Sir.

(c): R-12 refrigerant has to be phased out by 2010. About 300 coaches out of 780 would complete their service life by 2010 & will be phased out in normal course. The balance 480 coaches shall be converted by 2010 with environment friendly gas R134a. Work in this direction has already started.

(d): Does not arise.

(e): Funds required for manufacturing of AC coaches are provided through Railway Budget.

(f) & (g): Railway Coach Factories are manufacturing about 350 AC coaches every year to meet its requirement on additional & replacement account.